

Opening Statement of the Honorable Fred Upton
Subcommittee on Health
Hearing on “PPACA Implementation Failures: What’s Next?”
December 11, 2013

(As Prepared for Delivery)

This committee has conducted extensive oversight of the president’s health care law. Many of the administration’s top health officials have testified over the last year, including the secretary. They repeatedly looked us in the eye - in the spring, summer, and fall - and assured us everything was “on track.” But our oversight has produced documents showing the frantic chaos of missed deadlines and delays behind the scenes.

Sadly, it seems the administration’s assurances about being ready to launch were just as empty as the president’s promises that this law would mean lower costs while allowing Americans to keep the coverage and doctors they have and like. Millions of Americans are now enduring the harsh reality of canceled plans, the burden of finding a new doctor, and the financial strain of higher premiums set to shock family budgets. Far too many Americans who were happy and satisfied with their health coverage on January 1, 2013, have had their worlds turned upside down as we approach January 1, 2014.

This is a matter of trust. It is time for the administration to be honest with folks like Mary Swanson in Kalamazoo, Michigan, who along with her husband has lost a self-described “excellent” plan. No more false promises. No more political games. No more questionable testimony. It is time for transparency and the truth.

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